

Our sojourn among the
Pyrenees (for a month), & the
opportunity of "luxuriating"
in the grand scenery &
marvellously rich flora
of that region, was a
great counter balance to
the mental strain caused
by deep anxiety. And as
we were permitted scarcely
tacitly to see marked
improvement in our dear
lad, the "scale" of happiness
began rapidly to ascend.

He still continues nicely,
& the Drs seem hopeful
that we may be spared
the necessity of taking him
away again. If it might
be that we went ^{again} voluntarily,
the "strain" would be of a
very different order.

West Bank,
York. 24 - X - 82

Dear Dr Gray

Very many thanks for
the seeds, & also for your
kind & welcome letter.

If I were to attribute any-
body's "silence" (in letter
writing) to a want of kindly
feeling, I fear I should
have to estimate myself
at a very low level! as a
still greater transgressor
in the same direction.

But the friends who's well-
being can only be sustained by
frequent communication,
are not of the highest order?
One of the species, kindly say,

is new to us, viz Phyllodoce
glaucaeflora. P. empetri-
formis we grow freely &
much admire for its beauty.
We have a few plants of
Cassiope lycopodioides; but
as yet they are feeble.

We once had a bit or two
of Bryanthus Breweri
(a beautiful sp. in the way
of B. erectus, but with
more condensed habit (?) &
deep rose or rosy-purple
flowers. But this we have
lost for years & past, & it is
not now, I believe, in the
country.

We look back upon the
society of last yr (in con-
nexion with the M^{rs} of the
B. A.) & the delightful,

companies that favoured us
with their presence at
West Bank, with very
great pleasure. I well
remember thinking (when
it was over) "This has been
perfect. No jar of any
kind. Something to remem-
ber with gladness for ever."

And though, since, a
heavy cloud swept over
us, in the dangerous ill-
ness of my son Willie;
— involving our having
(as a family) to leave Eng-
land for 3 or 4 months —
yet even this, I am thank-
ful to say, seems to have
been vacillated for even-
tual good to all of us.

& works, a perfect & eter-
nal harmony.

All the members of our
family circle unite in a
message of kind remem-
brance to Mrs Gray &
yourself with

Yours very sincerely
Edw. Backhouse

2

West Bank,
Hark.

I have read your "Bio-
graphical notice" of
Mr Darwin with great
interest. I believe that
the impetus which he
has so powerfully given
to scientific investigation,
& the marvellous contri-
bution he has made to
scientific knowledge, will
lead to advance Truth - in
its highest sense.

And I cannot as some do,
draw a sharp line of separa-
tion between "scientific" &
"religious" truth! They spring
from the same fountain, &

will certainly be found
eventually to converge
there, when the mists of
prejudice & error pass
away.

I am often astonished &
grieved at hearing people,
(who believe themselves
Christians) speak of "Dar-
winism" & "Science" in gen-
eral, as if their direct ten-
dency was adverse to Relig-
ion — just as if they thought
that Spirit & Matter had
two (opposing) creators!

That they cannot get
authority for such senti-
ments from "The Gospels," I
feel certain: and therefore

can come to no other conclu-
sion than that, if they think
they can, it is because they
do not & cannot (as yet)
read the Gospels aright: nor
probably any portion of the
Bible.

How much of "human
environment" of sacred
things will have to be
torn away, before "spiritual
truth — as given from the
Fountain Head — can be
received in its purity & its
simplicity! When that
time does come, Science
will cease to be "a scare",
because "the spiritual eye"
will be mounted to see
in all the creator's words